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SALESMAN FOR OREGON COMPANY INDICTED ON FEDERAL MAIL FRAUD CHARGES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

A federal grand jury in Rockford today returned a twelve-count indictment charging FRANK G. EMERSON ("Emerson"), age 59, of York, Maine, with mail fraud. Emerson is charged in the indictment with defrauding Woods Equipment Company ("Woods"), of Oregon, Illinois, by submitting false claims for business travel reimbursement.

According to the indictment, Emerson worked as a salesman for Woods. Emerson's sales territory included several states located in the northeastern portion of the United States. Woods reimbursed its salesmen for their business travel expenses. For purposes of this reimbursement, Woods required its salesmen to submit business travel expense reports and receipts for expenses over \$25. The indictment alleges that from October of 2000 through November of 2006, Emerson submitted fraudulent travel expense reports which falsely listed expenses for hotel stays which did not occur. The indictment also alleges that Emerson created false receipts to support his fictitious hotel stays. The indictment further charges that Emerson mailed the false travel expense reports and receipts to Woods in order to cause Woods to issue travel reimbursement checks to him. According to the indictment, Emerson's fraud scheme caused a loss to Woods of more than \$70,000.

Each of the charges carries a maximum potential sentence of up to 20 years in prison without parole, and a fine of up to \$250,000, as well as any restitution ordered by the court. If Emerson is convicted, his actual sentence will be determined by a United States District Court Judge, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The case is being investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Scott A. Verseman.

Members of the public are reminded that a criminal indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which time the government has the burden of proving his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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